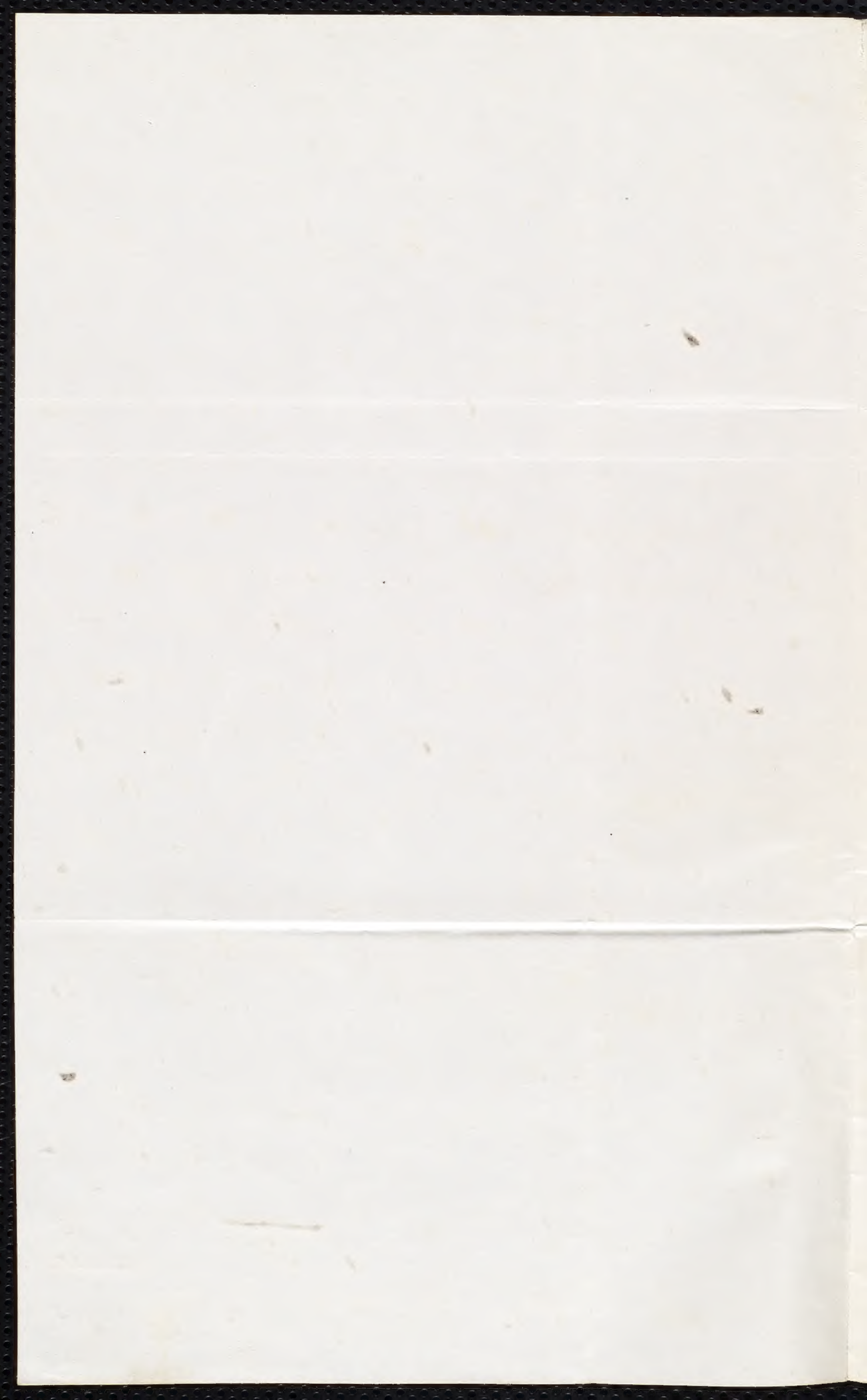


Rev. D. Gamett
Nov. 29. 1869

Boston Nov 29. 1869.

Dear Sir,

When you Mr S. May^{jr} affirmed that you heard me use an expression which I have disclaimed, the only alternative before me is a denial of the correctness of your statement or a confession of surprise that, under any degree of excitement, I should have allowed myself to use a word so repugnant to my own sense of propriety. I have too much respect for you, to take the former part of this alternative. It is, therefore, not only surprise, but regret which I feel, that I should have been betrayed into the utterance of ~~such~~ language, which only positive testimony, ~~could~~ ^{for my own recollection,} which in the present instance utterly fails, could make me believe ever passed my lips.

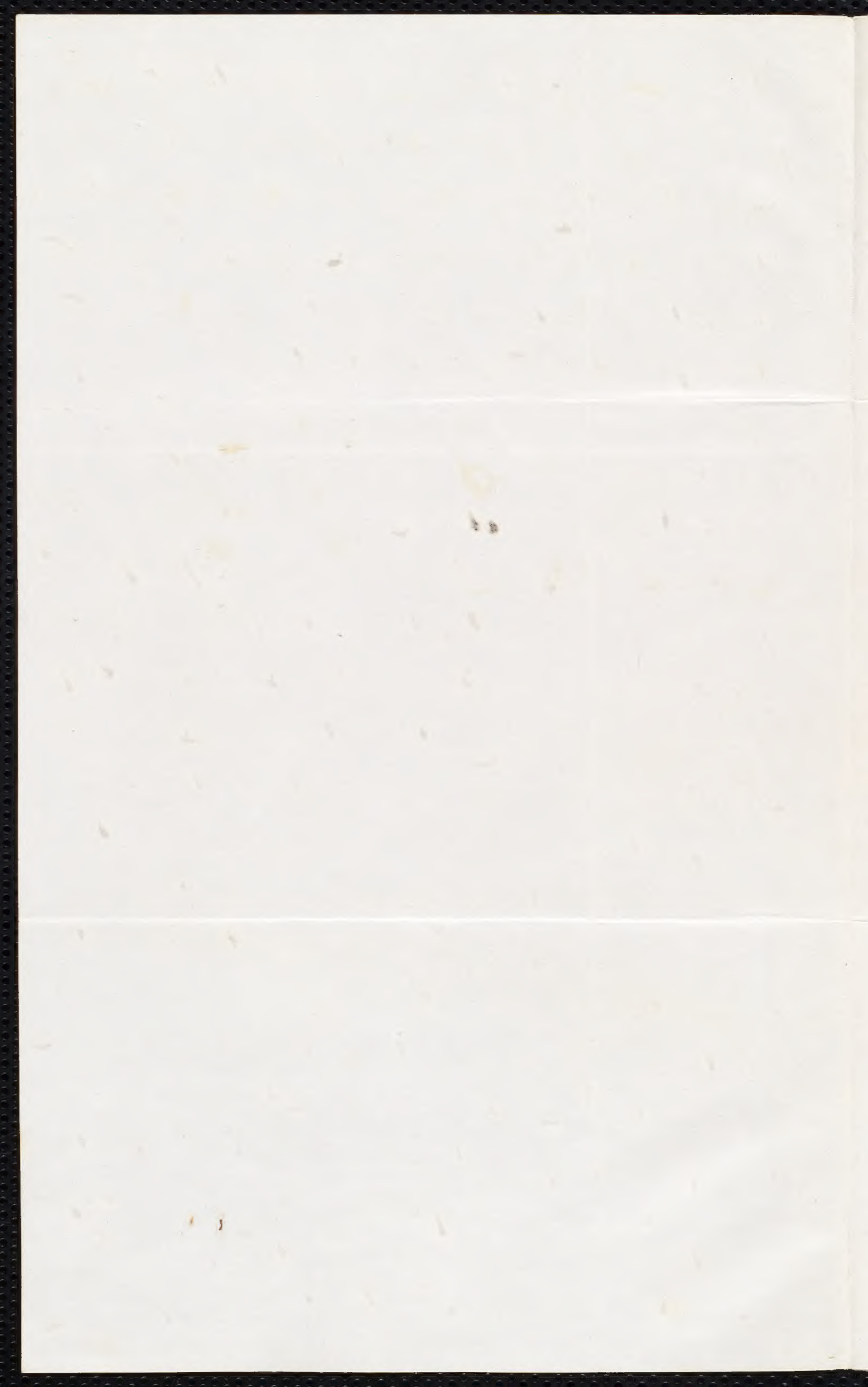


I did not mean, by my silence
in regard to the language ascribed
to me on p. 367 of your book, to accept
it as my own. As you included it
in quotation marks, you must have
had what seemed to you sufficient
authority for introducing it. A news-
paper report I should hardly rely on
as unquestionably accurate. Views
similar to those given on p. 372
I did at one time entertain; but
the ground which I know that I once
& again declared as that on which
I would stand was this, - that I
would befriend & protect the fugitives
slaves, and take the consequences,
i. e. disregard the law & bear the
penalty. Such I believe to be the
right & duty - right on the one hand,
duty on the other, of a good citizen
under a law which he cannot
conscientiously obey.

I make no complaint of your
renewing & perpetuating the differences,
in opinion & in actions, of years ago.

MS. B. 1.6 v. 131 p. 90-91

because I can understand how
from your point of view it might
appear to you both right & incumbent.
What I have always spoken of, and
do still regard, with respect and
disapproval is, that difference of
opinion, even on such a subject
as that which divides the Abolition-
ists from others, or rather on the
measures which it was proper to
pursue in relation to this subject,
(for that was the extent of the dif-
ference among Unitarians at the
North), should have led to the
imputation of unworthy motives.
This has always seemed to me
a gross and offensive. Both candor
& justice must suffer, when it
is taken for granted that a man's
convictions, however strange, are
the fruit of a dishonest heart. One
might form a false judgment, for
instance, in regard to the value
of the Union or the best way of preserving



it, and yet be sincere & conscientious. If the Abolitionists were ill-treated, they certainly did not hesitate to pronounce their opponents worthy of such condemnation.

Yours truly

Wm. L. Garrison

Rev. S. J. May.

Syracuse

Dec. 1. 1869

Dear Cousin,

I hasten to send this to you for I know it will gratify you as much as it has gratified me.

I expect to be in Cambridge next Saturday noon - and to stay there & in Boston eight or nine days. Then go to Newburyport for a week - and thence to New York, Philadelphia - Washington - Charleston Florida.

Please bring this when you come to Boston - or send it to me at Cambridge.

Yours affectionately
Sam. J. May. -

P.S.

Ade will be here tomorrow night, and I shall send the things to you by her, or, if she will stay & make Charlotte a visit, will bring them myself.